

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
Rothwell OF THE
ROTHWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my eleventh Annual Report on the Sanitary state of the Rothwell Urban District for the year 1902.

The Vital Statistics of the District may be taken as follows:—

Area of Sanitary District, 3476 acres.
Population estimated at 4293.
Density of Population, 1·23.
Births, 117. Males, 60. Females, 57.
Birth rate, 27·25.
Increase of Population, 15·1.
Deaths, 52. Males, 29. Females, 23.
Death rate, 12·11.
Deaths under one year of age, 16.
Death rate under one year, 136 per 1000 births.

The following were the chief causes of death as returned to the Registrar.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Accidents | ... | ... | 2 | Valvular Disease of the Heart | 3 |
| Bronehitis | ... | ... | 6 | Chronic Bright's Disease | 2 |
| Old Age | ... | ... | 3 | Premature Birth | 4 |
| Croup | ... | ... | 1 | Tubercular Meningitis | 2 |
| Malignant Disease | ... | ... | 4 | Epilepsy | 1 |
| Cardiac Syncope | ... | ... | 4 | Convulsions | 1 |
| Cyanosis | ... | ... | 2 | Nephritis | 1 |
| Atrophy | ... | ... | 6 | Influenza | 2 |
| Phthisis | ... | ... | 2 | Broneho-Pneumonia | 1 |
| Congestion of the Brain | | | 2 | Other Causes | 3 |

From a Sanitary point of view, this is perhaps the most satisfactory report yet sent in, as shown by the Death rate, which is the lowest I have yet had to record. Since the Urban Council came into existence there has been a gradual reduction in the Death rate, as shown by the following figures—thus in

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|------|--------------------|-------|
| 1893 | the Death rate was | 16·76 |
| 1894 | „ „ „ „ | 18·82 |
| 1895 | „ „ „ „ | 18·4 |
| 1896 | „ „ „ „ | 18·9 |
| 1897 | „ „ „ „ | 15·9 |
| 1898 | „ „ „ „ | 13·27 |
| 1899 | „ „ „ „ | 14·76 |
| 1900 | „ „ „ „ | 14·14 |
| 1901 | „ „ „ „ | 13·59 |
| 1902 | „ „ „ „ | 12·11 |

These figures speak for themselves. Yet even a greater source of congratulation is seen in the fact of the manifest decrease in the infant mortality, *i.e.*, under one year, for in 1893 it was 172·0 per 1000 births, whilst this year it has fallen to 136·7 per 1000. This so far improved result is, I think, largely due to better house accommodation, healthier and more sanitary surroundings and decrease in overcrowding, and last, though not least, the careful scavenging of the town. All these Sanitary arrangements must tend in lowering, not only our infant mortality, but the general Death rate of the District.

Since I had the honour of presenting my last annual report to the Urban Council we have had the experience in the district of decided epidemic disease. There were a few cases of Scarlatina at the beginning and the end of the year, but, thanks to prompt measures being taken, this ailment did not spread. During November and December, we had one of the most pronounced and extensive epidemics of Measles which we have had for some years. Fortunately, it was of a very mild type, without any fatal cases. Disease, comes to Prince and Peasant alike, and may, under certain forms of malignancy, and in spite of the surroundings, prove equally fatal to either. But it is always well to remember that a naturally mild form of Zymotic Disease may, and often does, assume a virulent character in the presence of uncleanly or insanitary conditions.

In conclusion, allow me to congratulate the Urban Council on the completion of our splendid Water-works, the general scheme of which reflects credit on all concerned. Our new Cemetery also is in progress of completion, and we trust and hope it will be many a day before it is overcrowded.

In this connexion, I cannot help noting the fact of the near approach to our neighbourhood of that most dreadful and loathsome disease Small-pox. I understand it is in Gretton and Loughborough. Are we in a position to cope with it? Certainly not!! Neglect of Vaccination—the recognised protective measure for this dire disease—seems to me neither more nor less than a form of Sanitary unrighteousness.

The Factories and Workshops have been visited officially during the last year, and there is nothing of a new or a special nature to record concerning them.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JAMES MORE, M.O.H.

Rothwell,
Northamptonshire,
Feb., 1903.

